

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A musical tone signal generation apparatus accommodated for multiple users to play music in an ensemble is configured by a main unit and a prescribed number of performance operators, which are physically separated from each other. The main unit installs speakers that are arranged in connection with the performance operators respectively. At least one of the performance operators is configured as a hold operator that is configured using a pressure sensor mounted on a base member and encapsulated in a hold member which is made by elastic material (e.g., urethane foam) and is formed in a round shape suited for grip of the user. Each of other performance operators installs at least a pad, which is manually operated by each user to issue tone-generation instructions. Performance data (e.g., MIDI data) and tone color data are provided with respect to at least a single musical tune constructed by plural parts respectively corresponding to plural tone colors, which are automatically assigned to the performance operators. Herein, musical tone signals are automatically generated based on the performance data to play automatic performance, or musical tone signals are generated in response to tone-generation instructions being issued from the performance operator to play manual performance by the user. Moreover, the main unit installs a control panel having indicators and switches for prescribed functions and elements in music play such as play, stop, fast forward, reverse, tone volume, tempo and modulation, while the performance operator installs a sub panel having a limited number of switches.